

## **Double Helix Reading**

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# Double Helix

## Nancy Werlin

### **I. Project: choose from one of the following**

1. Prepare a power point presentation
2. Design a brochure
3. Take on the role of a newspaper reporter writing for the science section of the New York Times. You have just received a big scoop about Wyatt Transgenics.

### **II. Next: Choose your topic:**

#### **A. Huntington's Disease:**

- a) What is Huntington's Disease?
- b) What chromosome is Huntington's Disease found on?
- c) How do people get Huntington's Disease?
- d) What are the symptoms of Huntington's Disease?
- e) How do doctors diagnose Huntington's Disease?
- f) How is Huntington's Disease treated?
- g) Bioethical decisions
  - a. Should we screen newborns for Huntington's disease?
  - b. Who should have access to that information?
  - c. If it was you, would you want to know? Why or why not?
  - d. What conclusions did Eli come to?
  - e. What was your perception of Dr. Wyatt's research?

#### **B. Transgenics:**

- a) What is transgenics?
- b) What types of products are made using transgenic technology?
- c) How do you change an organisms DNA?
- d) Why create transgenic animals or food?
- e) What are the ethics involved in creating transgenic organisms?
- f) Bioethical decisions
  - a. Should scientists be permitted to do work in transgenics? Why or why not?
  - b. How do you feel about genetically modified food? (back up you view with facts)
  - c. What conclusions did Eli come to?
  - d. What was your perception of Dr. Wyatt's research?

Questions:

1. Explain what is meant by the comment, "Dr. Wyatt's office was not what I would have expected."
2. "The email was a drunken impulse. I regretted it the moment I clicked Send, but it was too late. Forget about drinking and driving—it's drinking and emailing that can really mess you up—permanently." Explain this comment?
3. On page 11, Dr. Wyatt makes the comment, "...And people simply accept, although they don't necessarily like it, the plain fact that intellectual resources are distributed unequally." What does he mean by this?
4. How did Eli meet Viv?
5. Where does Eli's mother live?
6. What was the letter that Eli became angry about? And why do you think he was angry?

Pg. 30 – 61

1. Why do you think Eli doesn't talk about his parent to Viv?
2. What does Eli mean when he thinks, 'And suddenly I felt like an experimental rat in a lab cage, with sharp objects jabbing at me from all sides. It was the emotional analogue to the way I'd felt yesterday, poked and prodded, tissue – and blood-samples, lung-capacity and heart measured, for nearly three hours in the medical exam that all new Wyatt Transgenic employees apparently had to undergo.'
3. Why wasn't Eli's mother at his high school graduation? (be specific)
4. In chapter 8, Eli and Dr. Wyatt engage in an interesting conversation on what makes a human, 'human'. What does Eli believe?

Pgs. 62 – 89

1. What does Larry mean when he says, "It's all about milk, Kid."?
2. What is transgenics?
3. What are some of the symptoms that Eli's mother is displaying?
4. What has to happen first in order to get genetic testing for a disorder? Why?
5. Who did Eli meet at Dr. Wyatt's?

Pgs. 90 – 121

1. How does Dr. Wyatt disagree with Linus Pauling? What is each of their opinion? What do you think?
2. How did Viv find out about Eli's mother?
3. Who is Foo-foo 14, and where did she lead Eli?

Pg. 122 – 150

1. What is meant by: The trinucleotide: Cytosine-Adanine-Guanine. C A G? Be specific.
2. What happened to Eli's mother, and what was his reaction?
3. What was Eli's Father's reaction to seeing Kayla?

Pg. 151 – 181

1. What are immutable animal instincts?
2. What did Eli discover in the photograph album?
3. What did Eli ask Viv to do for him?
4. Why did Dr. Wyatt invite Kayla to Cambridge for the summer?
5. What is the relationship between Kayla and Eli?

Pg. 182 – 211

1. Kayla wasn't Eli's sister, but they both shared the same DNA, how can this be?
2. What does the term chimera mean?
3. '...nothing comes without a price,' what is this in reference to? What agreement did Mrs. Samuels make with Dr. Wyatt?
4. What did Kayla steal from Dr. Wyatt?

Pg. 212 -250

1. Describe the layout of the basement that Kayla showed Eli.
2. Why did Dr. Wyatt build the basement level?
3. Why was Kayla older than Eli?
4. There is a moment when Eli thinks, 'At that moment, I understood about adulthood.'  
  
What does this mean to YOU?
5. How did this story end?